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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,756	10/31/2005	Norihito Nishimura	Q69644	7294
23373	7590	04/14/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			RAHMANI, NILOOFAR	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1625	

DATE MAILED: 04/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,756

Applicant(s)

NISHIMURA ET AL.

Examiner

Niloofer Rahmani

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-17 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,7-11,18 and 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2-6 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/12/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-19 are currently pending in the instant application.

2. ***Election/Restrictions***

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

I. Claims 1-11, and 18-19, drawn to compounds, pharmaceutical compositions, and process for producing an ascorbic acid derivative corresponded to the general formula (1), classified in class 549, subclass 222 depending on species election. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

II. Claim 12, drawn to collagen production accelerator comprising the ascorbic acid derivative, classified in class various, subclass various, depending on species election. If this group is elected, further election of a single disclosed species is also required.

III. Claim 13, drawn to whitening preparation comprising the ascorbic acid derivative, classified in class various, subclass various depending on species election. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed specific pathology and a single active ingredient for treating the

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elected specific pathology is also required. Further restriction may be required.

IV. Claim 14-17, drawn to skin preparation for external use, comprising the ascorbic acid derivative, classified in class various, subclass various depending on species election. If this group is elected, a further election of a single disclosed specific pathology and a single active ingredient for treating the elected specific pathology is also required. Further restriction may be required.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

The inventions listed as Groups I and IV do not relate to a single general inventive concept under 35 USC 121 or PCT Rule 13.1 because: **PCT Rule 13.1** states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept ("requirement of unity of invention").

PCT Rule 13.2 states that the unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B, **Part 1(a)**, indicates that the application should relate to only one invention, of if there is more than one invention, inclusion is permitted if they are so slinked to form a single general inventive concept.

Annex B **Part 1(b)**, indicates that "special technical features" means those features that as a whole define a contribution over the prior art.

Annex B **Part 1(c)**, further defines independent and dependent claims.

Unity of invention only is concerned in relation to independent claims.

Dependent claims are defined as a claim that contains all the features of another claim and is in the same category as the other claim. The category of a claim refers to the classification of claims according to subject matter e.g. product, process, use, apparatus, means, etc.

Annex B **Part 1(e)**, indicates that the permissible combinations of different categories of claims. **Part 1(e)I**, states that inclusion of an independent claim for a given product, an independent claim for a process specially

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adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for a use of the said product is permissible.

Annex B, **Part 1(f)**, indicates the "Markush practice" of alternatives in a single claim. **Part 1(f)I**, indicates the technical relationship and the same or corresponding special technical feature is considered to be met when (A) all alternatives have a common property or activity, and (B) a common structure is present or all alternatives belong to a recognized class of chemical compounds. Further defining (B), Annex B, **Part 1(f)(I-iii)**, the common structure must; a) occupy a large portion of their structure, or b) the common structure constitutes a structurally distinctive portion, or c) where the structures are equivalent and therefore a recognized class of chemical compounds; each member could be substituted for one another with the same intended result. That is, with a common or equivalent structure, there is an expectation relationship and the corresponding special technical feature result from a common (or equivalent) structure that is responsible for the common activity (or property). **Part 1(f) iv**, indicates that when all alternatives of a Markush grouping can be differently classified; it shall not, taken alone, be considered justification for finding a lack of unity. **Part 1(f)v**, indicates that "When dealing with alternatives, if it can be shown that at least one Markush alternative is not novel over the prior art, the question of unity of invention shall be reconsidered by the examiner" In the instant case, at least one Markush alternative is not novel because prior art by JP 61-50908 anticipated group I, thus the lacking of unity of invention has been found.

During a telephone conversation with Bruce E. Kramer on 03/14/2006 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of group I, claims 1-11, and 18-19. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 12-17 withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

3. **Priority**

This application is filed on 10/31/2005, which is a 371 of PCT/JP03/04659, filed on 04/11/2003, which claims benefit of 60/373,609,

filed on 04/19/2003, which claims the priority of JAPAN 2002-110341, filed on 04/12/2002.

4. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 7-10 are rejected because the term "comprising" is vague and indefinite. What compounds are reacting? And how are they reacting? Correction is required.

5. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 11 is rejected because the term "a vitamin C preparation" is vague and unclear. Does it mean composition comprising the ascorbic acid derivatives according to any one of claims 1 to 6? Correction is required.

6. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

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The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 11, and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 11, and 18-19 are rejected because the claims are self-conflicting. Pharmaceutical compositions by definition must be effective yet non-toxic. Claims 11, and 18-19 are pharmaceutical composition without dosage limitation i.e. included both ineffective and toxic amount. It is recommended that "therapeutically effective amount" be incorporated in the claims.

7. *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

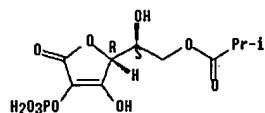
A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Toshiyuki et al. of JP 61050908. Toshiyuki et al. disclosed the instant claimed product and pharmaceutical salts, which is from STN search
RN 102914-55-6

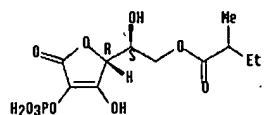
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CN L-Ascorbic acid, 2-(dihydrogen phosphate) 6-(2-methylpropanoate)



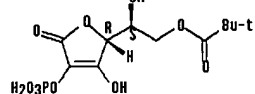
RN 102914-60-3 CAPLUS

CN L-Ascorbic acid, 2-(dihydrogen phosphate) 6-(2-methylbutanoate)



RN 102914-61-4 CAPLUS

CN L-Ascorbic acid, 2-(dihydrogen phosphate) 6-(2,2-dimethylpropanoate)



, as

having same activity as the instant claims. Therefore, the instant claim is anticipated by Toshiyuki et al.

8. *Claim Objections*

Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Niloofar Rahmani whose telephone number is 571-272-4329. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cecilia Tsang, can be reached on 571-272-0562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NILOOFAR RAHMANI
03/31/2006

NR


MARGARET SEAMAN
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